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04/02/2013 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
APRIL 2, 2013 MEETING

SPY POND COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob & Harriet Noyes, Steve Ricci, Stroker Rogovin.

Facilitator: Brad Barber **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

2013 meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 30 instead of May, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5. Dec. 1. Town Hall Annex, first floor.

- The **minutes** of the previous meeting were accepted with minor corrections.
- **Fertilizer** question raised at the last meeting: Brad reported that a Massachusetts law passed last year requires that as of January 1, 2013 lawn fertilizer must contain no phosphorus unless it is for a new lawn or where a soil test has indicated a need for phosphorus. Businesses are supposed to offer both kinds of fertilizer and display the law. UMass Extension was given the power to set rules, but there seems to be no enforcement mechanism, and no publicity either. It was suggested that the high school SAVE group or the *Arlington Advocate* be alerted to publicize it. Our next fertilizer flyer needs to call attention to this law and include a phone number for reporting violations.
- The **EcoFest** on March 23 was a lot of fun. The Secchi disk demonstration attracted a lot of attention, but there was little interest in the door hangers. A new quiz was used rather than the one that is now at least ten years old. The quiz revealed that many people don't know what a watershed is. We should try to have a 3D model of the Spy Pond watershed at the next Town Day.
- **Trails Day, May 11:** Stroker has sent around a press release and a list of everybody's assignments, and will re-send both since some people didn't get them. The AMC will participate but the crew has a conflict again and May 11 is also the Community Collection Day. Some groups are having National Service Day on the last Saturday in April, and it was suggested that we could take advantage of that for next year. For this year Steve suggested marking invasives like Oriental bittersweet with a different color, e.g. blue if orange is used for poison ivy, and asking people to pull the color-marked plants whenever they have time.
- **Goose-egg addling:** the time is here and the volunteers are ready. Joey has been monitoring McClenen Park and has seen one pair of geese there. Jacob brought statistics showing that the number of nests and eggs at Spy Pond had been decreasing over the years until last year, when it went up for reasons unknown.
- **Weed treatment in Spy Pond:** Brad has been in contact with ACT and has received two proposals: either "Sonar" followed by a booster dose plus algaecide if needed, or an annual combination of "Reward" and copper sulfate plus a precipitate dose of alum. The latter may well be more expensive over time than "Sonar," which is needed only every 3 or 4 years. The committee favors "Sonar." Steve will ask Teresa at DPW to get started promptly on getting permits, etc. ready for timely "Sonar" treatment.
- **Wayland:** The pond committee is ready for a visit from some Spy Pond people on May 7. Not everyone can go because of conflicts.

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